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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/774,784	02/09/2004	Herbert Gerner	298-220	9756
28249	7590	03/22/2005		
DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP			EXAMINER	
333 EARLE OVINGTON BLVD.			NORMAN, MARC E	
UNIONDALE, NY 11553				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3744	

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/774,784	GERNER, HERBERT	
	Examiner Marc E. Norman	Art Unit 3744	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/9/04</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al.

As per claim 1, Kobayashi et al. discloses two refrigerator/freezer units (1 and 2), common operating unit 6, and signal transmission component 5.

As per claim 2, Kobayashi et al. discloses each refrigerator/freezer unit having its own control unit (18 and 25), and the control units being connected with the operating unit 6 via signal transmission line 5 (Figure 3).

As per claims 3 and 11, Kobayashi et al. discloses operating unit 6 being integrated into unit 1 (Figure 1).

As per claims 4 and 12-14, Kobayashi et al. discloses both units 1 and 2 comprising both refrigeration and freezer units.

As per claim 7, Kobayashi et al. discloses the signal transmission component comprising cable 5 (Figures 1 and 3).

As per claim 8, Kobayashi et al. discloses the two refrigeration units having plug in sockets for transmission device 5 (see for example paragraph [0016]).

As per claim 10, Kobayashi et al. discloses transmission unit 5 transferring various types of data (see for example paragraphs [0026] and [0027]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 5, 6, 9, and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al.

As per claims 5 and 15-20, Kobayashi et al. does not teach the system including an ice-cube maker. However, official notice is taken that ice-cube makers are common and well-known components of refrigerators that would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply to the system of Kobayashi et al. for the simple purpose of conveniently providing ice for the user.

Art Unit: 3744

As per claim 6, Kobayashi et al. does not teach the signal transmission unit comprising a bus system. However, official notice is taken that bus systems are common data transmission devices that would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply to the system of Kobayashi et al. for the purpose of coordinating and connecting the various data transmission sources and receivers.

As per claim 9, Kobayashi et al. does not teach the signal transmission unit being wireless. However, official notice is taken that wireless communication is common and well-known in the art of data transmission, and that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply wireless transmission to the system of Kobayashi et al. for the purpose of conveniently integrating the two refrigeration units without requiring a hardwire connection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc E. Norman whose telephone number is 571-272-4812. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Denise Esquivel can be reached on 571-272-4808. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MN



**MARC NORMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**